The Life of Robert Campbell

Biography

Genealogy of Campbell, Kennedy, Righter, and others

By

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Second Edition

2023
Wright Family Ancestry
Frederick Maryland

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Preface

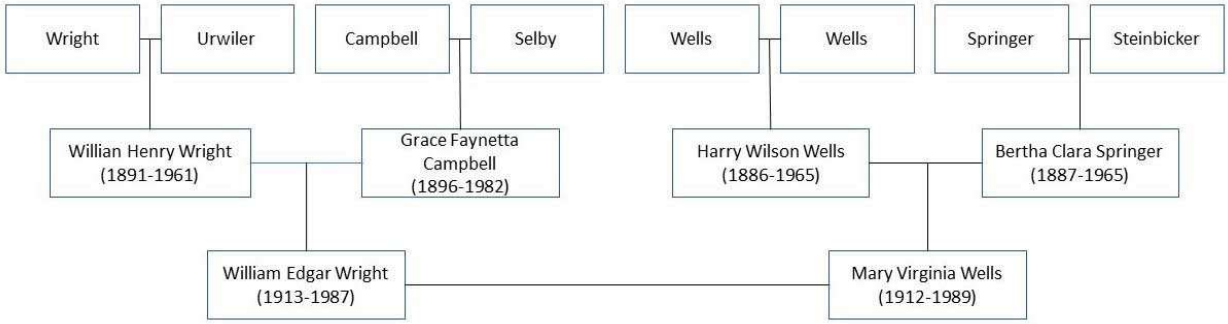
The second edition of "The Life of Robert M. Campbell" has become necessary due to the large addition of information about our Campbell ancestors acquired since its first publication. The new information covers our traceable ancestors back to the Ulster Scotts in County Tyrone in Ireland back in the 17th century. All of this new information is covered in "Campbell Family Ancestry by Curtis W. Wright" to be published in the near future. This new edition has been trimmed down to cover just Robert and his immediate family plus his wife Catherine's ancestry.

Updated information in Robert's family include the addition of one son Mortimer Campbell (1836-1842), and correct identification of Murray Campbell (1844-1862?) who it turns out is not the same person as Murray L. Campbell (1848-1927) of Osage City Kansas. There are also significant changes in Robert's story including the trouble that confronted the family in Racine Ohio. Trouble that ultimately destroyed Roberts fortunes and tore the family apart.

The means by which individuals are identified may be seen in Robert's full name, Robert M. Campbell (1810-1884) (3g-gf). The individual identity includes the full name followed by birth and death years in parentheses. Direct ancestors include a relationship identifier. For Robert, this is (3g-gf) for great-great-great grandfather. Full name identity reference indicates a key reference or event for that individual. Names without a full name identity rely on context to identify the particular individual. Only the author's direct ancestors include relationship indicators. The identifier for the author is Curtis Wells Wright (1945-living). Lifespans with missing years indicate unknown information, and years with question marks indicate suspected of best-guess years.

Wright Family Ancestry

The following diagram shows the position of the Campbell family in the Wright Family Ancestry[1]. At the base are the author's parents William and Mary Wright.



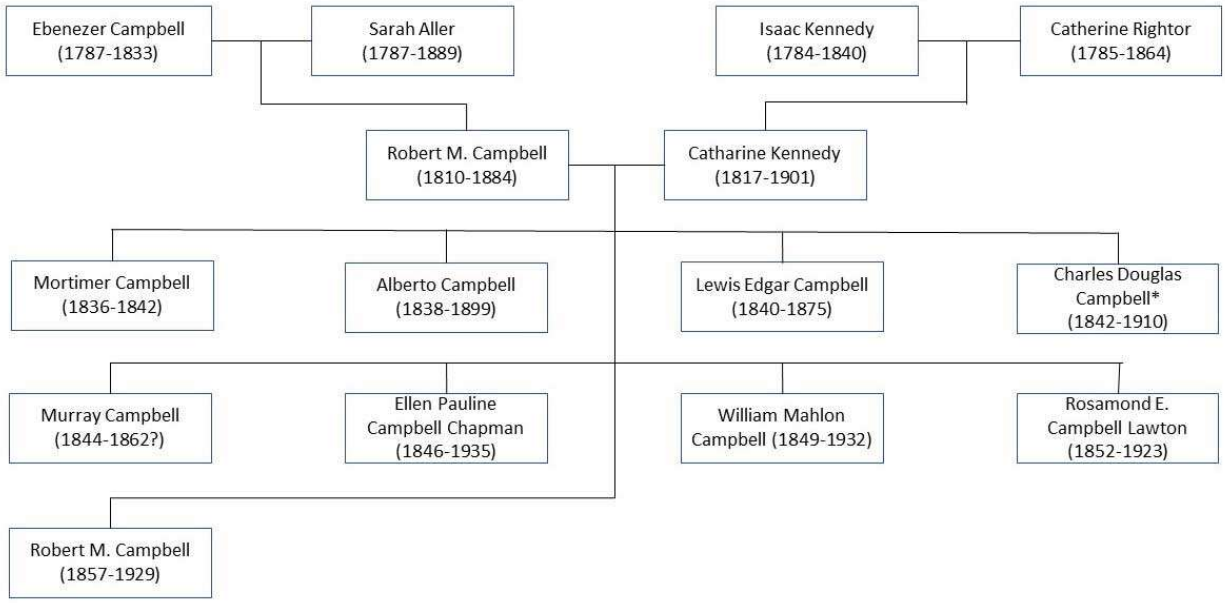
1 The Wright Family Lines Map

Robert M. Campbell was Grace Faynetta Campbell Wright's great grandfather.

[1] The Genealogy repository for Wright Family Ancestry is located in the Wright Family Tree, a public member tree at Ancestry.com at https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/113494454/family/fanview?cfpid=160115934349. This tree is freely accessible to Ancestry members. Contact the author at WrightFamilyAncestry@gmail.com for nonmember instructions.

Third Great Grandfather Robert M. Campbell

The following diagram shows the family of Robert M. Campbell (1810-1884) (3g-gf) the son of Ebenezer Campbell (1787-1833) (4g-gf) and Sarah Aller Campbell[2] (1787-1889) (4g-gm). Robert's wife Catherine Kennedy Campbell (1817-1901) (3g-gm) was the daughter of Isaac Kennedy (1784-1840) (4g-gf) and Catherine Righter Kennedy (1785-1864) (4g-gm). (*The asterisk in the diagram indicated the path of our family line.) The ancestry of Isaac and Catherine Kennedy is covered at the end of this biography.



2 The Family of Robert and Catherine Campbell

Robert M. Campbell (1810-1884) (3g-gf) lived a life quite different from what we know today. He was comfortable with horses, living outdoors, and in a cabin heated with an open fire. He lived by the power of his own body and the skill of his mind. He was the "Paul Bunyan" of our family. He was born into a world driven by horse power, but he lived to see the birth of steamboats and railroads. And he lived to see his sons go off to fight in a bloody civil war. He was an adventurer who moved across the country, family in tow, as he pursued a life of a timberman and businessman.

Robert Campbell was born in Onondaga County New York on October 14th 1810[3] soon after the marriage of Ebenezer Campbell and Sarah Aller Campbell. He grew up on his father's farm in Cicero township until sometime after 1823[4] when his father decided to move west. The Erie Canal to Buffalo was completed in 1825, so it is possible that this event helped enable the move. The canal passed right through the county close to where they lived, so they could have boarded a barge at the nearby terminal basin for the journey west. At Buffalo, they would have boarded a coastal schooner (or an

[2] Campbell Family Ancestry by Curtis W. Wright includes ancestry for Ebenezer and Sarah Campbell.
[3] Robert's birth date is back calculated from his death date and age as reported in his obituary. "Died - Campbell", *The Critic*, Washington, DC, October 6, 1884, p3 col3. https://www.newspapers.com/image/46388306 (accessed May 31, 2023).
[4] The 1820 US Census shows the Ebenezer Campbell household in Manlius, Onondaga, NY with 1 son and 3 daughters. The son is the right age to be Robert.

early steamboat) for the trip down the Lake Erie shore to the port of Dunkirk in Chautauqua County where they settled into their new life. They settled in Busti township in Chautauqua County[5] right on the border with Warren County Pennsylvania, a place of future family events. Of course, the family may have loaded up the wagons and made the journey cross county, a difficult journey of more than 200 miles and weeks to reach Chautauqua County.

Chautauqua County was still wild country in 1825. There were still Seneca Indians living in the area, but they were quickly moving west for the fur trade and into Canada. The Seneca Indian reservation was just to the east in Cattaraugus County. The area boasted several saw mills and there was a thriving lumber industry that soon became a new life for the Campbell family. The practice at the time (there were no steamboats here yet) was to take the lumber from the mills, build crude barges (lumber scows) loaded with the lumber, and then to float them down the Allegheny River to Pittsburgh or Cincinnati to be sold. On arriving at their destination, the barges could be dismantled and sold with the cargo, or left intact for further transport down the Ohio river. After the sale, they had to make their way back up river 150 miles from Pittsburgh to return home. From Cincinnati it was more than 600 miles back home. This was a tough life, but this was the work that Robert took up when he was still a teenager.

Each spring after the thaw and the river was clear, Robert and his father would begin floating lumber barges downriver. The spring run of 1833 started like any other, but there was cholera on the river. By the time Ebenezer got to Pittsburg, he and another man were admitted to the Hospital on June 9th. Ebenezer Campbell (1787-1833) (4g-gf) died that same night at age 46 years.[6] The other man died the next day. Robert was forced to return home without his father. Robert continued working in the lumber business.

Warren County Pennsylvania was just across the state line from Robert's home in Busti. Robert was just 20 years old in 1831 when he acquired his first land in Warren County, a town lot in Columbus Village.[7] Then in 1834 the family of Isaac Kennedy arrived in Columbus Village and acquired land for their new family seat. Robert soon made the acquaintance of Isaac's daughter Catherine and they were married in Warren County about 1835.

Initially, Robert and Catherine made their home in Columbus Village in Warren County. Five of their children were born there including Mortimer in 1836, Alberto in 1838, Lewis Edgar in 1840, Charles Douglas (2g-gf) in 1842, and Murray in 1844. 1844 was the same year the canal between Erie and Pittsburgh was completed putting an end to Robert's float business to Pittsburgh.

In the intervening years after Ebenezer's death, Robert's mother Sarah was able to amass a respectable nest-egg. In one project, she acquired 100 acres of land in Chautauqua County for $290 in 1838, and

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[5] The 1830 US Census shows the Ebenezer Campbell household in Busti, Chautauqua, NY with 1 son and 3 daughters. The son is the right age to be Robert. There was a new daughter added so one of the others had gone by this date.

[6] The date and place of Ebenezer's death is known from his pension records, which matches the death of an unnamed raftsman in the Pittsburgh Hospital. "Cholera." Two Raftsmen Die. *Pittsburgh Weekly Gazette*, June 11, 1833. https://www.newspapers.com/image/96006255 (accessed December 16, 2023.)

[7] Warren County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book D: 351; David Curtis et al. to Robert Campbell, 11 July 1831; "Warren, Pennsylvania, United States Records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSN2-5XQW : September 16, 2023), image 186 of 310; Pennsylvania. County Court (Warren County).

sold it again in 1839 for $900. This is a sizable profit in an age when a typical wage was $1 a day or about $300 per year.[8] Part of the deal was probably the timber harvest that Robert was able to move and sell in Pittsburgh. Then in about 1844 the family started their journey west. Robert went west to Wisconsin Territory to take advantage of government land sales there, and his mother Sarah went with her daughter, Rebecca Farr's family into Michigan.

By 1844 the steam era was well in swing.[9] This was especially true in the Great Lakes where numerous steamship lines ran scheduled routes alone the lakes and between the islands.[10] The lake steamers were by far the most comfortable route west. The family probably boarded a westbound Lake Erie steamboat at the port of Erie bound for Detroit. As Sarah departed Detroit heading west into Michigan with the Farr family, Robert and his family boarded a northbound steamer up Lake Huron toward points west.

Sarah's journey from Erie to Detroit was 278 miles, what would have been 20 to 25 days by wagon was a mere four or five days by an 1840s lake steamer. From Detroit, Sarah went west into Michigan proper where she settled in Barry County Michigan. In 1844 she acquired a 40-acre farm in Johnstown where she lived with her daughter Mary Ann. Mary Ann married that same year and moved to Ohio. Sarah's daughter Rebecca Farr and her family lived close by. In 1854, Sarah was able to claim Ebenezer's military bounty land of 160 acres in Gratiot County Michigan, which she sold. Mary Ann and her family returned to Michigan in 1874 and acquired a farm in Jackson County. In 1879, Sarah sold her farm and moved in with her daughter Mary Ann Beckwith on their new farm in Blackman in Jackson County Michigan. Sarah Aller Campbell (1787-1889) (4g-gm) died in Blackman on April 20th 1889 at age 102 years. She is buried in the Mount Evergreen Cemetery in the town of Jackson in a plot owned by her son-in-law Stephen P. Beckwith.

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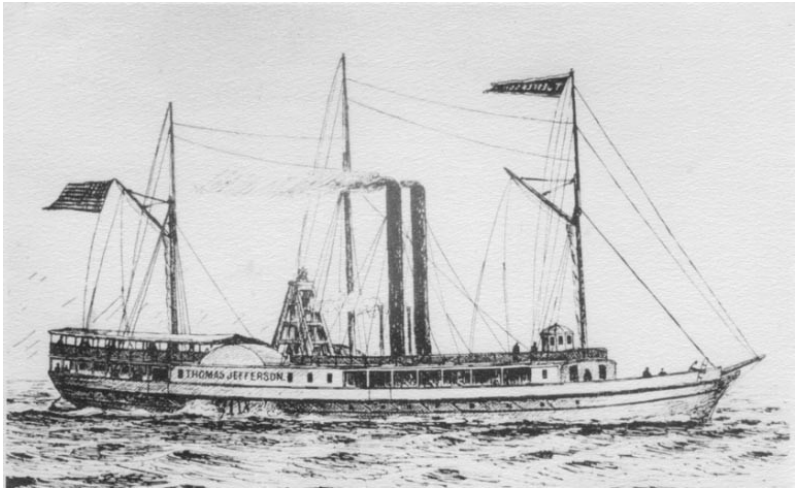
[8] Edith Abbot, "The Wages of Unskilled Labor in the United State, 1850-1900," *The Journal of Political Economy* 13, no 3 (June 1905), Internet Archive (https://archive.org/details/sim_journal-of-political-economy_1905-06_13_3/mode/2up: accessed 6 November 2023), Table I-X.

[9] Wikipedia contributors, "Great Lakes passenger steamers," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia,* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Great_Lakes_passenger_steamers&oldid=1145738216 (accessed September 21, 2023). This article shows an 1838 steamboat timetable from "The Tourist's Pocket Map of Michigan"; S. Augustis Mitchel, Philadelphia, 1835. David Rumsey Historical Map Collection; Image Number 4927002.

[10] R.G. Plumb, "Lake Michigan Shipping 1830-1850," Inland Seas Online, Summer 1949, The National Museum of the Great Lakes, https://nmgl.org/lake-michigan-shipping-1830-1850-summer-1949 (accessed September 22, 2023).



3 Great Lakes Steamer Thomas Jefferson (1830s & 1840s)

Robert went the same route to Detroit as did his mother, but then went much further. Aboard a lake steamer like the Thomas Jefferson, he traveled up to the top of Lake Huron to the Straits of Michilimackinac (modern Mackinac) to cross over to Lake Michigan and then down to Milwaukie Bay, a journey of 900 miles from Detroit. Robert's journey was to a town in Wisconsin Territory south of Milwaukee, the town of Racine. It was while living in Racine that Robert and Catherine's first daughter, Ellen Paulene was born on June 12, 1846.

Robert's purpose for traveling all the way to Wisconsin territory is unclear. It could have been for the government land there. Government Land Office records show Robert Campbell having purchased 40 acres in Iowa County about 150 miles west of Racine on May 1, 1845. His past history says he would harvest the timber and sell the farm, and he might have done that. However, there is some evidence that he was in business in the town of Racine. It appears that Robert was a partner in the L. S. Blake & R. Campbell Company, which manufactured Fanning Mills. A fanning mill was an early machine to separate wheat from chaff before flouring the grain. Robert was bought out of this business in November of 1846.[11]

Robert's reasons for traveling to Ohio are not as obscure as for Wisconsin, but how he found out about opportunities there is a mystery. It appears that he was intent on acquiring a steam powered grist and saw mill in Meigs County Ohio. His journey there spanned an even greater distance than that to Milwaukee. In the late 1840s, rail travel was still in its infancy, and long-distance rail travel would not become possible for another decade. So, it was back on the boats for a 1400-mile journey by steamer, canal boat and riverboat to get to his new home in Ohio.

The journey involved a short 80-mile stretch abord a lake steamer like the Thomas Jefferson to get from Milwaukee to Chicago. At Chicago, they transferred to a canal boat to go the 96 miles down the Illinois and Michigan Canal to the Illinois River at LaSalle Illinois. From LaSalle it became a new adventure abord riverboats like the Ben Campbell to go the rest of the way to Ohio.

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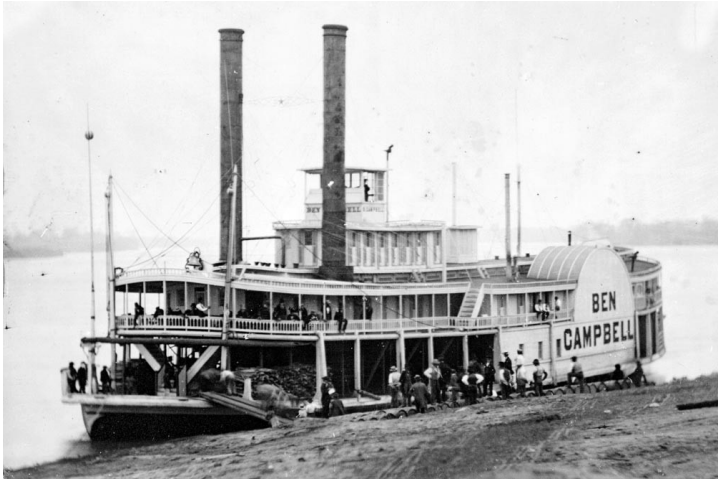
[11] "Dissolution of Partnership", *Racine Advocate*, Racine, Wisconsin, November 4, 1846, p3 col3. https://www.newspapers.com/image/38649498 (accessed November 22, 2023).



4 Riverboat Ben Campbell (1840s & 1850s)

The riverboats that Robert found were much different from the lake steamers, which were built for deep water and high seas. Riverboats were built low and wide with a shallow draft that was best suited for cruising on flat water and close docking at the shore. These were not palace boats of the Riverboat Gamblers, but workaday boats like the Ben Campbell[12] that Robert boarded in LaSalle for his journey to Ohio.

Robert's river journey progressed 230 miles down the Illinois River to the Mississippi and 220 miles down the Mississippi past St. Louis to the town of Cairo at the southern tip of Illinois. Here, they transferred to an Ohio River boat going upstream. On the Ohio River they traveled 509 miles up the southern boarders of Illinois and Indiana to get to Ohio and the city of Cincinnati, a total journey from Milwaukee of about 1140 miles.

Robert did not spend much time in Cincinnati. It is possible that they only stopped so Catherine could give birth. They took up residence across the river from Cincinnati in Covington Kentucky just long enough for the birth of their 5th son William Mahlon on May 3rd 1849. Then it was back out on the river going 230 miles upstream to Graham Station (later renamed Racine), a village on the river in Meigs County Ohio. They were in Sutton township in Meigs County in time to be counted in the US Census in September 1850.[13]

Racine is a small town on the Ohio River along the southeast boarder of Ohio. Racine appears to have been the family home for a number of years. The 1850 US Census reports the family there with Robert working in industry as a lumberman. The rest of Robert and Catherine's children were born in Racine including Rosamond E. in October 1852, and Robert M. in 1857. By the 1860 US Census, Robert was missing from the family and Catherine was listed as "head of household" at Racine Ohio. Alberto was following in Robert's footsteps working as a miller in a lumber mill and the other boys were working other industry jobs.

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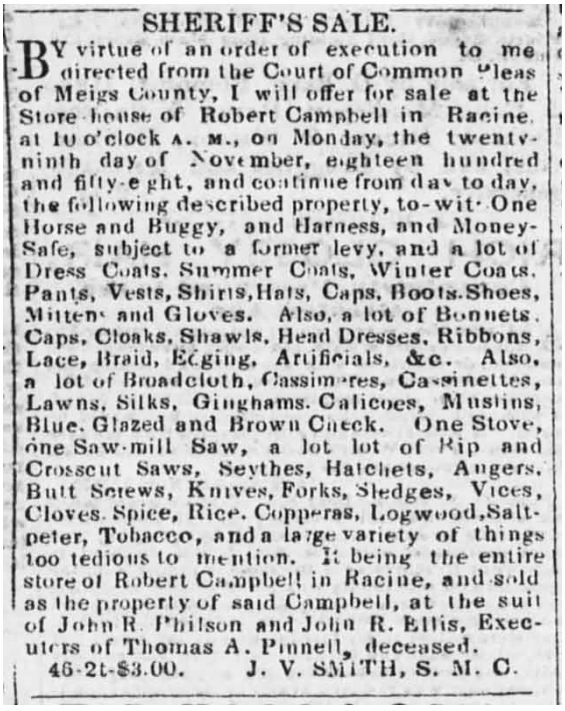
[12] Riverboat Ben Campbell c1852, Library of Congress, Control Number 2004664385.

[13] 1850 U.S. census, Meigs County, Ohio, population schedule, Sutton township, dwelling 1014, family 1039, Robert Campbell; image, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/14214802:8054: accessed 5 May 2005); citing NARA Record Group Number: *29*; Series Number: *M432*; Roll: *710*; Page: *181a*.

The period between 1850 and 1860 turned out to be a disaster for Robert. On arriving in Meigs County he was successful in his ambition to own a mill, at least partially. Graham Station[14] had an existing steam powered grist mill that was having financial troubles, and Robert was successful in getting control of this business. He made the mill his own by investing heavily in new equipment and facilities. He was successful enough to win first prize at the local agricultural fair for his flower. The business turned out to be less than a great investment. The first and most persistent problem was that the mill was part of a trust held for the grandson of the original builder. It appears that Robert was unable to own more than half of the business but was responsible for its operation. Profits from his success appear to have been diluted by the other owners. He also ended up absorbing debts from the prior operator without the ability to recoup. In 1853, Robert sued the other owners for relief and sold a quarter of the total business to his former partner Jeremiah Petrel. Robert made numerous investments in town lots that he sold for profit. And, he also operated a dry goods business in the town. With the mill, the store, and his land deals going, his cashflow was quite large, and he relied heavily on credit to keep things running. The whole business was a house of cards that collapsed with the death of one creditor Thomas Pinnell. His estate sued Robert to recover the debt with disastrous consequences. The first to go was the store that was sold by the sheriff in November 1858.[15]



SHERIFF'S SALE.

BY virtue of an order of execution to me directed from the Court of Common Pleas of Meigs County, I will offer for sale at the Store-house of Robert Campbell in Racine, at 10 o'clock A. M., on Monday, the twenty-ninth day of November, eighteen hundred and fifty-eight, and continue from day to day, the following described property, to-wit: One Horse and Buggy, and Harness, and Money-Safe, subject to a former levy, and a lot of Dress Coats, Summer Coats, Winter Coats, Pants, Vests, Shirts, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Mittens and Gloves. Also, a lot of Bonnets, Caps, Cloaks, Shawls, Head Dresses, Ribbons, Lace, Braid, Edging, Artificials, &c. Also, a lot of Broadcloth, Cassimeres, Cassinettes, Lawns, Silks, Ginghams, Calicoes, Muslins, Blue, Glazed and Brown Check. One Stove, one Saw-mill Saw, a lot lot of Rip and Crosscut Saws, Seythes, Hatchets, Augers, Butt Screws, Knives, Forks, Sledges, Vices, Cloves, Spice, Rice, Copperas, Logwood, Saltpeter, Tobacco, and a large variety of things too tedious to mention. It being the entire store of Robert Campbell in Racine, and sold as the property of said Campbell, at the suit of John R. Philson and John R. Ellis, Executors of Thomas A. Pinnell, deceased.

46-2t-$3.00. J. V. SMITH, S. M. C.

5 Sheriff's Sale of Robert Campbell's Store

The judgement on the Pinnell estate destroyed Robert's ability to conduct business. So, Robert left the state for parts unknown and let the chips fall where they may. He would not be seen again for nearly 20 years.

[14] Graham Station was renamed Racine in August 1852.

[15] "Sheriff's Sale", *Pomeroy Weekly Telegraph*, Pomeroy, Ohio; November 23, 1858, p3, col5, https://www.newspapers.com/image/171455973 (accessed November 19, 2023).

Robert disappeared near the end of 1858. He likely maintained contact with the family and may even have sent money from time to time. At least he knew where to find his family when he did return. He did not reappear until the US Census of 1880 when he showed up on his own in Washington, DC. His death certificate indicates that he came to DC in 1876, but there's no other record of it. Robert M. Campbell (1810-1884) (3g-gf) died in Washington, DC on October 3rd 1884[16] at age 73 years. Robert and Catherine were never reunited in life, but they share a grave at Congressional Cemetery in site 318 in range 95.

[16] District of Columbia Death Certificate, number 44004. Note: almost all of the information on this certificate is wrong. The only way to be sure it is for our Robert is the fact that the funeral was held at Alberto Campbell's home at 908 E Capitol Street.

Robert Campbell's Family

Robert left the family and his debt troubles in Racine, Ohio sometime in 1858. Unfortunately, the consequences of his debt problems did not leave with him. Catherine and the rest of the family remained in Racine and had to deal with the ongoing situation. In Robert's absence, Catherine presided over the continuing dissipation of the family wealth. In August of 1859 Robert's mill and the land on which it set were sold by the sheriff.[17] The Campbell sons continued working at the mill, but as wage workers. Then in 1862 a new suit was filed that further troubled the family, a suit that continued in the court until 1867.[18]

The onset of the Civil War in 1861 made matters worse for Catherine. The three oldest Campbell brothers: Alberto, Lewis, and Charles (2g-gf) must have seen the coming of the war as a great opportunity to escape. Lewis and Charles wasted no time in joining up. Lewis was first and was made 1st Sergeant in Company H in the 18th Regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Charles joined this unit as a private. The unit was made active on April 23rd 1861, less than 2 weeks after Confederate batteries fired on Fort Sumter. Their 3-month enlistment took them little farther than guarding B&O rail facilities between Parkersburg and Clarksburg, and then they were mustered out in Columbus Ohio on August 28th. On returning home to Racine, they both joined Company A in the 2nd Regiment of Virginia Mounted Volunteers[19], which soon became the 2nd West Virginia Cavalry. Lewis was a lieutenant, and Charles was a private. Alberto joined the unit a couple of days later as a sergeant. Alberto and Charles served through the war and were on active duty when Lee surrounded at Appomattox. Murray was just 17 years old and too young to go with his brothers. He was left at home to be the man of the house with his mother and four children.

There is a mystery regarding the fate of Murray Campbell (1844-1862?). Murray was left behind to help manage family affairs while the brothers were off fighting the war. Murray was 17 years old, out of school, and working when the brothers enlisted in 1861. He was capable of managing family affairs but something went wrong the Winter of 1862/3. The only certain event was that Lewis Campbell had to resign his commission in the 2nd Caverly to return home. From the Spring of 1863 on, Lewis was at home managing the family affairs. Nothing further has been discovered about the fate of Murray.

The Civil War ended in the Spring of 1865. Lee surrendered the last major Confederate army to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. Alberto and Charles were both mustered out of their cavalry units at Wheeling West Virginia on June 30th 1865. It was a short journey down river to home at Racine.

There was a rash of weddings after the war ended. Alberto married Rosaline Crowser on October 10th 1865, Lewis married Mary M. Marshall on April 20th 1866, and Charles (2g-gf) married Josephine Wilcoxen (2g-gm) on November 28th 1866.

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[17] Meigs County, Ohio, Deed Book 23: 261, for Sheriff's sale of Robert Campbell's land and mill. images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C37P-PSWW-5 : November 13, 2023), images 157 and 158 of 703; Meigs County (Ohio). Recorder.

[18] "Notice" Robert Campbell Debt Foreclosure. *Pomeroy Weekly Telegraph*, September 6, 1861, p4 col4. https://www.newspapers.com/image/171444021 (accessed November 13 2023.)

[19] See the Wikipedia article "2nd West Virginia Cavalry Regiment" for the unit history.

The family troubles were not over though. The final hammer fell on October 7th 1867 when the last of Robert's suits was settled with the sheriff's sale of the last of Robert's land.[20] The family soon went their separate ways.

NOTICE.

ROBERT CAMPBELL is hereby notified that John M. Segrist, on the 28th day of August, A. D. 1861, filed his petition in the Court of Common Pleas within and for the County of Meigs, and State of Ohio, against the said Robert Campbell and Catharine Campbell, defendants, setting forth that the said Robert Campbell gave a mortgage, in which the said Catharine joined, to the said John M. Segrist, on lot No. one, in Myers' Addition to the village of Racine, in said County of Meigs, to secure the payment of five several promissory notes, made by said Robert Campbell to said John M. Segrist, for $110.00 each, and payable respectively on the 5th day of March, 1857, 5th day of March, 1858, 5th day of March, 1859, 5th day of March, 1860, and 5th day of March, 1861, with interest from the 5th of March, 1856.—That the four notes last referred to are still, with the interest thereon accrued, wholly unpaid; and that, on the 18th of September, 1858, there remained due on said first-mentioned note, falling due March 5th, 1857, the sum of $64.20; and praying that Robert Campbell may pay said sums of money now claimed to be due, with the interest thereon, or that said premises may be sold to satisfy the same; and the said Robert Campbell is notified that he is requested to appear and answer said petition on or before the 3d Saturday after the 10th day of October next. JOHN M. SEGRIST.

By J. CARTWRIGHT, his Attorney.

August 29, 1861.—35-6t $5.25

6 1861 Suit Settled with Sheriff's Sale of Campbell Land October 1867

The family started going their own ways after about 1868. Ellen Pauline (Ella) married Morris Chapman on January 28th 1868. After the wedding, they moved to Morris' family home in Mason County West Virginia. Ella made her home in Hartford West Virginia until her death in 1935 at age 89 years. Lewis and William both moved to Clay County Illinois. Lewis died young in 1875 at just 35 years. William married Ella B. Billings in Clay Illinois on December 31st 1872. William became a police magistrate in Clay and lived a long life until his death in 1932 at age 82 years. The rest of the family went to Washington, DC around 1870.

The final migration of the Campbell family to Washington started about 1869 when Alberto and Charles went there. It was an easy trip to go upriver to Parkersburg, and catch the train east to Washington. They may have scouted the location while stationed there during the war. By 1870, they were listed in the Washington City Directory in adjoining houses at 906 and 908 East Capitol Street. By 1875, the

[20] Meigs County, Ohio, Deed Book 32: 493, for Sheriff's sale of Robert Campbell's land. images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C37P-GZ52 : December 13, 2023), image 632 and 633 of 716; Meigs County (Ohio). Recorder.

remaining family members were out of Ohio and living in Washington. Catherine didn't expect to see Robert ever again because she started listing herself in the city directory as the widow of Robert. Imagine her surprise when he popped up again in 1876.[21] She didn't take him back though and continued to list herself as a widow in spite of his living in the neighborhood. Robert lived in Washington, DC eight more years working as a laborer and then for the Bureau of Printing until his death on October 3rd 1884 at age 73 years. Catherine Kennedy Campbell (1817-1901) (3g-gm) lived in Washington with her daughter Rosamond until her death on January 25th 1901 at age 84 years. Catherine and Robert were finally reunited at Congressional Cemetery in southeast Washington, DC in grave site 318 in range 95.

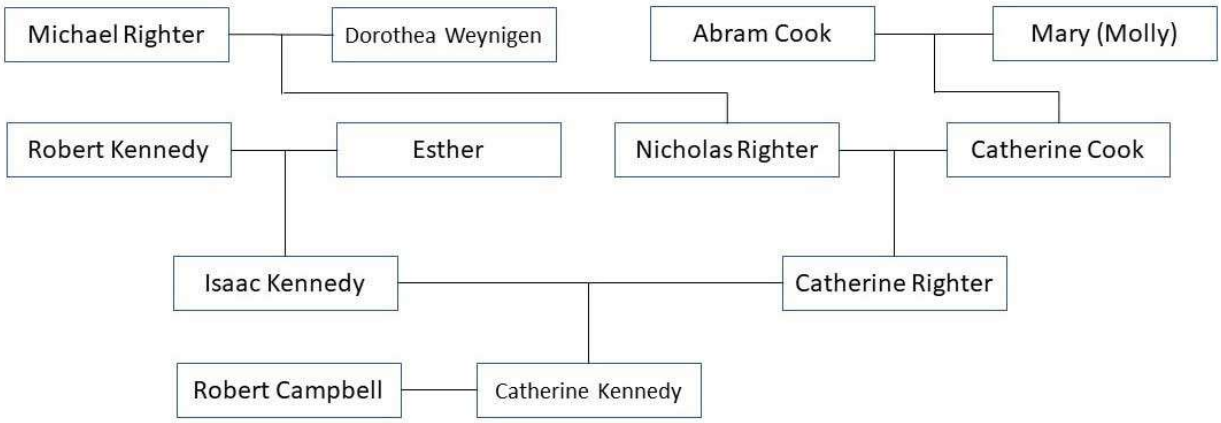
The rest of the family remained in Washington, DC. Alberto worked for the government for a while and then as a real estate agent, and a contractor. He even ran a restaurant for a while. He died on June 25th 1899 at age 61 years, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery along with his wife Rosaline. Charles worked as a clerk for the Agriculture Department and then for the Civil Service. Charles Douglas Campbell (1842-1910) (2g-gf) died on February 14th 1910 at age 67 years, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery along with his wife Josephine Rebecca Wilcoxen Campbell (1841-1923) (2g-gm). Rosamond worked for the Bureau of Printing until she married A. Bradley Lawton in 1884. She died in Washington, DC on October 2nd 1923 at age 71 years. Robert junior worked for the DC Transit company and died in Washington on November 30th 1929 at age 71 years.

[21] One might think that Catherine Campbell, the widow of Robert before the death of Robert was some other Catherine. I thought this was the case until I noticed that she shared an address with known Campbell family members. It is our Robert too because he and Catherine share a plot at Congressional Cemetery.

Third Great Grandmother Catherine Kennedy Campbell

Robert Campbell's wife, Catherine Kennedy Campbell (1817-1901) (3g-gm) was born in Chenango County New York in January of 1817. She was the daughter of Isaac Kennedy (1784-1840) (4g-gf) and Catherine Righter Kennedy (1785-1864) (4g-gm), the fifth of nine children.

That might be all the information available about most wives in our history, but Catherine's family history is much more robust. The following diagram shows Catherine's ancestors in brief. Note that the identity of her Kennedy grandfather has changed from Henry Kennedy to Robert Kennedy in this new diagram. This is because her grandmother's memorial marker at the Pine Grove Cemetery was erected more than 50 years after her death and is wrong. The older grave marker where she is buried at the David Curtis Cemetery is correct. This new diagram also shows corrections for Nicholas Righter's parents. All of these individuals are our direct ancestors.



7 Catherine Kennedy Campbell's Ancestors

To avoid confusion among the individual stories, the narrative is broken into subsections along family lines. First comes Catherine's father Isaac Kennedy, and then her mother's side through her grandfather Nicholas Righter.

Fourth Great Grandfather Isaac Kennedy

Catherine's father was Isaac Kennedy (1784-1840) (4g-gf). Isaac was a wealthy land owner and land speculator in New York and Pennsylvania. He enjoyed a successful life and is remembered in biographical sketches of several of his sons.[22] Isaac's wife, Catherine Righter Kennedy (1785-1864) (4g-gm) is also well remembered in early local histories of the Revolutionary War in New York.

Isaac was born on February 24th 1784 in New York probably in Brookfield in the great western territory of Montgomery County, which later became several counties including Monroe County 1806. Isaac was the son of Robert Kennedy (c1755-c1809) (5g-gf) and Esther Kennedy (1757-1835) (5g-gm).

Isaac's father Robert was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. In the early years, Robert went by the name Canady and appears in military and land records as such. In 1775 Robert Canady was listed as a

[22] Samuel P. Bates, et al, *History of Erie County, Pennsylvania* (Chicago, IL: Warner, Beers & Co., 1884), Part V, pages 235, 236. Internet Archive, (https://archive.org/details/historyoferiecou00bate/page/n5/mode/2up : accessed June 7 2019).

corporal in Captain Benjamin Ledyard's Company in the first Regiment of New York Forces in the service of the United Colonies commanded by Colonel Alexander McDougall.[23] The following year Robert was enlisted for a short time in the Continental Army in Captain Samuel VanVechten's Company in Colonel Cornelius Wynkoop's fourth Regiment of New York Forces. After that service he served mainly in New York Militia units.

Isaac's parents Robert and Esther's history is virtually unknown except that they lived in Brookfield and later sold a farm there in 1805.[24] Robert may have acquired his Brookfield farm soon after 1789 when the territory was acquired from the Indians and became the "20 Townships." Brookfield is the 18th township in "Clinton's Purchase." Robert must have died soon after the farm sale because Esther was living in Isaac's household from the 1810 US Census until her death in 1835. Esther Kennedy (1757-1835) (5g-gm) died on May 11th 1835 in Columbus in Warren County Pennsylvania at age 78 years. She is buried in the David Curtis Cemetery in Columbus.

Isaac Kennedy met and married Catherine Righter about 1804 somewhere near Middlefield in Otsego County New York east of his home in Brookfield. Catherine's family had been living in Middlefield since 1796 when her father acquired a farm there.[25] After their marriage, Isaac and Catherine moved north to Utica in Oneida County where Isaac acquired work in the glass factory. Isaac was an educated man and soon attained a position of responsibility in the company. The business did not flourish so Isaac soon moved on.

By the time of the 1810 US Census, Isaac and Catherine were living in Brookfield in Madison County New York near Isaac's boyhood home. Then in 1816 Isaac acquired his first farm, a 151-acre tract in Brookfield. Then in 1817, Isaac moved a short distance south and acquired an 85-acre farm in Columbus in Chenango County New York.[26] Over the following 15 years residence in Columbus, Isaac grew the family farm to more than 500 acres.

Aside from farming, Isaac was active in community affairs and served as a member of the board of trustees for the 10th school district in the county, and worked toward establishing schools there. All of the Kennedy children were well educated.

Isaac and Catherine had nine children. Their first was Sydney R. Kennedy (1808-1865) who was probably born in Middlefield near Catherine's parents. Then there were Dr. Charles H. Kennedy (1810-1902), Elizabeth Kennedy Avery (1812-1871), Madison James Kennedy (1816-1860), and Catherine Kennedy

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[23] "United States Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783", FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2DG-9G5N : 19 October 2023), Entry for Robert Kennedy, 31 Aug 1775.

[24] Madison County, New York, Deed Book E: 415, 416; Robert Canada and Esther his wife to Amos Bursick, 28 August 1805; "Madison, New York, United States Records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WQ-14FD : September 26, 2023), images 221, 222 of 623; New York. County Court (Madison County).

[25] Otsego County, New York, Deed Book H: 309, 310; Abraham Fling to Nicholas Righter, 17 November 1796; "Otsego, New York, United States Records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99WT-XHL9 : October 1, 2023), images 165-166 of 598; New York. County Court (Otsego County).

[26] Chenango County, New York, Deed Book X: 435, 436; Jesse Palmeter to Isaac Canady, 10 April 1817; "Chenango, New York, United States Records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89WF-SH5Z : June 15 2019), image 244 of 570; New York. County Court (Chenango County).

Campbell (1817-1901) (3g-gm) all born in Brookfield in Madison County. And then came Polly Esther Kennedy Ware (1818-1912), Austin I. Kennedy (1820-1894), Julia Ann Kennedy Russell (1824-), and DeWitt Clinton Kennedy (1827-1902) all born in Columbus in Chenango County.

1832 was a year of big changes for Isaac and his family. In partnership with one Elijah Smith, Isaac went to Erie County Pennsylvania to help finance the acquisition of a great deal of land. I do not know exactly how much land but in the six transactions I reviewed, he and Elijah acquired more than 900 acres at auction from the county and more than 500 acres from individual sales. With many deeds unexamined, there could have been a great deal more. All of the land was acquired for speculation and Isaac did not live on any of the land until much later. When he did finally move the family in 1834, he settled in Columbus in Warren County Pennsylvania just east of Erie County. Isaac sold off much of his land in New York to fund his resettlement in Pennsylvania. His eldest son Sydney was left in New York to run the farm there.

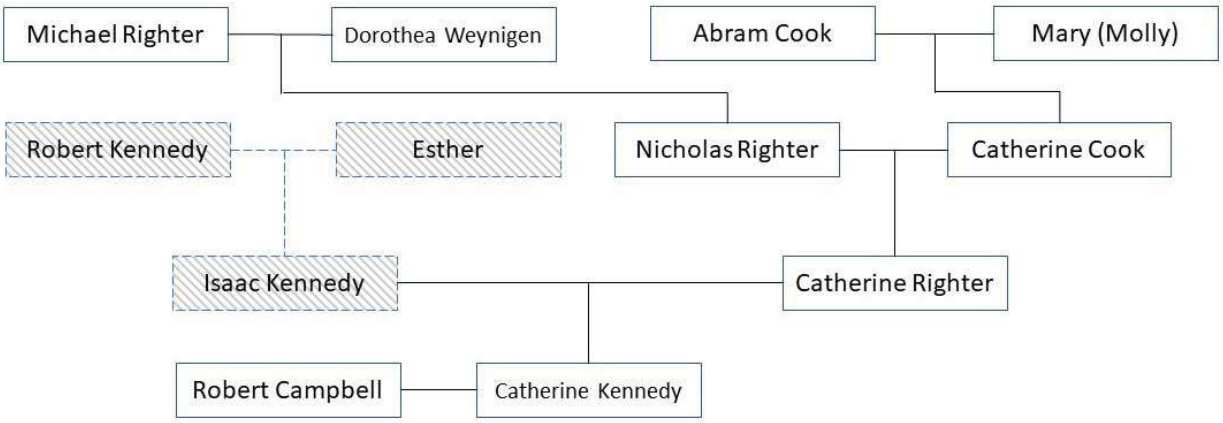
Isaac's settlement in Columbus Village in Warren County was key to our story. Columbus Village was where our Robert Campbell had his residence since 1831, and this is where he and Catherine Kennedy met, and where they married in about 1835.

Isaac and Catherine were still living in Warren County when Isaac's health started to fail, which prompted them to sign their estate over to their second son Charles H. Kennedy in June of 1835.[27] They soon moved to the farm in Wayne in Erie County where Isaac made his Will on February 18th 1839. Isaac Kennedy (1784-1840) (4g-gf) died in Erie County on April 28th 1840 at age 56 years. Catherine survived Isaac by many years living with various of her children until her death. Much of the land acquired by Isaac and Elijah Smith in 1832 remained in Elijah's hands and was sold off over the years up to 1858. It is likely that the Kennedy family benefitted from these sales. Then in 1864 Catherine Righter Kennedy (1785-1864) (4g-gm) died in Erie County in May of 1864 at age 79 years. Isaac and Catherine are buried in the David Curtis Cemetery in Columbus Warren County Pennsylvania.

Fifth Great Grandfather Nicholas Righter

This next part extends Catherine Campbell's story through her mother Catherine Righter Kennedy to her grandparents Nicholas Righter (1754-1851) (5-g-gf) and Catherine Cook Righter (1764-1850) (5g-gm). It's a bit more complex so here is the diagram again with the Righter family highlighted.

[27] Erie County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book J: 182, 183, Assignment Isaac Kennedy and wife to Charles H. Kennedy, 14 June 1835; "Erie, Pennsylvania, United States Records," images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSN2-ZBDJ : September 21, 2023), images 440, 441 of 677; Erie County (Pennsylvania). Recorder of Deeds.



8 Catherine Kennedy Campbell's Maternal Ancestors

At the center of the story is Catherine's grandfather Nicholas Righter.[28] Nicholas Righter (1754-1851) (5g-gf) was born in Duanesburg[29] in Schenectady County New York on September 1st 1754. He was the youngest son of Michael Righter (1718-1804) (6g-gf) and Dorothea Weynigen Righter (1720-1798) (6g-gm) who were immigrants from Germany.

Michael Righter emigrated from Germany about 1750 and settled in Duanesburgh. He acquired Duanesburgh lot 84 of 104+ acres in 1757.[30] He appeared in the Journal of James Duane, the proprietor of Duanesburgh on June 27th 1765 where he reports "arriving at Righter's about noon."[31] He also reported "Lodged the night at Righter's who lives in the cave of a large rock…"[32] He was obviously known to James Duane, but it appears that Michael did not acquire ownership of the Duanesburgh land until 1784 when he was reported as owner of lot 84 of 104+ acres. He also leased the adjacent lot 83 for a total of 208 acres. Michael's eldest son Henry Righter also acquired Duanesburgh land beginning in 1777, and his youngest son, our Nicholas acquired lot 142 by rent in 1786.[33]

[28] The Righter name takes several forms in early records and is probably transformed from the modern German name Richter. It is frequently Righter, but may appear as Rector, Ricter, or Rechter. It is listed as Nicholas Richter in some Revolutionary War records. Most Righter descendants use Rector today.
[29] Duanesburg was Duanesburgh in Albany County until 1809. Duanesburg is now part of Schenectady County.
[30] "Historic Marker Michael Righter," William G. Pomeroy Foundation, 2023; webpage (https://www.wgpfoundation.org/historic-markers/michael-righter : 29 December 1023).
[31] "Duane Family Papers, 1665-1916, Series IV: Bound volumes, 1754-1843," Volume 1, Journal to Duanesburgh, etc., June 1765. No. 1; images, New-York Historical Society (https://nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16124coll1/id/33933/rec/1 : 5 October 2023), page 1.
[32] Duane Family Papers, Journal to Duanesburgh, page 2.
[33] "Duane Family Papers, 1665-1916, Series IV: Bound volumes, 1754-1843," General Account of Duane Property Holdings, 1765-1789; images, New-York Historical Society (https://nyheritage.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16124coll1/id/32929/rec/1 : 5 October 2023), page 46.

1 Michael Righter Historical Marker

Michael and Dorothia Righter had seven children at the time of Michael's will in 1804. The eldest son was Henry Righter followed by their second son Michael Righter Junior. The will names Nicholas as the youngest son, leaving Johannes as their third son. They had three daughters interspersed among the sons with the eldest being Anna Righter Shraden. The second daughter was Maria Righter Myers who was diseased by 1804, and the youngest was Dorothy Righter Longenhealt.

Michael Righter (1718-1804) (6g-gf) died in Duanesburg on May 19th 1804 at age 86 years. He is buried in the Duanesburg Village Cemetery.[34] Dorothea Weynigen Righter (1720-1798) (6g-gm) preceded Michael in death and died in Duanesburg about 1798 at age 78 years.

Our Nicholas was Michael and Dorothia's youngest son and has a rich story of his own that starts in Duanesburgh where he was born on September 1st 1754. Nicholas was a farmer, but he was also a soldier and Indian fighter during the Revolutionary War. According to Nicholas' service records[35] and pension application[36], he served in Col. Peter Vorman's 15th Regiment of Albany County Militia as well as other militia units throughout the war. While George Washington and the Continental Army were off fighting the British, the militia were engaged fighting the Tories and Indians. Like the similar conflict in the Carolinas, frontier fighting in New York was characterized by savagery, hate and reprisals among those who were once neighbors. There were massacres of civilians including woman and children in Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania and in Cherry Valley New York, as well as the destruction of numerous Indian towns and villages throughout the Mohawk Valley. In time there were great stretches of frontier abandoned by settlers to be resettled again after the war. This was Nicholas Righter's war.

The Cherry Valley massacre[37] holds particular interest for our family because it is where Nicholas met his future wife Catherine Cook (1764-1850) (5g-gm). Catherine Cook was the 16-year-old daughter of Adam

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[34] "Historic Marker Michael Righter," marker image.

[35] Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War; NARA, Washington, DC, 1912; Record Group 96, Roll 0748.

[36] Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files; NARA, Washington, DC, 1912; Record Group 15, Roll 2048.

[37] Wikipedia contributors, "Cherry Valley massacre," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia,* https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cherry_Valley_massacre&oldid=1170426832 (accessed September 21, 2023).

Cook (-1778) (6g-gf) and his wife Mary Cook (1746-) (6g-gm). They were among the settlers occupying Cherry Valley on November 11, 1878 when a band of 700 to 800 Tories and Iroquois Indians attacked the settlement. The attackers made little effort to attack the small fort there, but focused on destroying the settlement. It was in this attack that Abram Cook was killed and young Catherine was taken prisoner. Official accounts say that the prisoners were released on the second day after the attack but a few like Catherine were held longer. Mary Cook survived the attack and remarried to Alexander McCollum. (This was the Mary McCollum who testified for Nicholas at his pension deposition in 1832.) In the aftermath of the attack, Nicholas arrived in the area with the militia and he and Catherine Cook met. Nicholas and Catherine were married at Cherry Valley about five years later on September 20th 1783. Nicholas and Catherine settled on a farm in Duanesburgh in Albany County.

Nicholas and Catherine had six children. The first five were born on the farm in Duanesburgh including Maria Righter Graham (1784-1879), Catherine Righter Kennedy (1785-1864) (4g-gm), Dorothy Righter Graham (1786-1876), Jenny Righter (1788-), Johannis Righter (1790-). In 1796 the family relocated to a farm in Middlefield in Otsego County New York near where Catherine's mother was living. Their youngest daughter Elizabeth Righter Bacon (1790-1876) was born there.

Nicholas and Catherine lived the remainder of their lives in Middlefield. Nicholas acquired about 200 acres of land in 1806 and 1807 that became the family farm.[38] Nicholas bought and sold several other properties over the years, but retained the family farm throughout his life. Nicholas and Catherine lived a long and full life. Catherine Cook Righter (1764-1850) (5g-gm) died in Middlefield on June 6th 1850 at age 86 years.[39] Nicholas Righter (1754-1851) (5g-gf) died soon after on October 5th 1851 at age 98 years. They are both buried at the Old Middlefield Center Cemetery.

Postscript

In case you are interested in making all of the connections, Michael Righter lived in Duanesburgh where Nicholas was born. Nicholas served in the army detachment sent to Cherry Valley after the massacre where he met and eventually married Catherine Cook. Nicholas and Catherine eventually moved to Middlefield where they made their home. Isaac Kennedy lived in Madison County but must have passed through Middlefield at some time so he could meet Nicholas' eldest daughter Catherine Righter. They were married about 1804 and their eldest son Sidney R. was born in Otsego County, probably at the Righter farm. Isaac's land speculation business eventually took him and his family to Warren County Pennsylvania where Isaac's daughter Catherine met and married our Robert Campbell in 1835. And thus, the story begins.

[38] Otsego County, New York, Deed Book H: 309, 310.

[39] Catherine's age of 86 doesn't quite match the claim she was 16 at the Cherry Valley Massacre, but it is what is written on her grave marker. It's more likely she was 14 or 15 at the Cherry Valley massacre.

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